

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Vice-Chair Wolff called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Sandy Wolff (Vice -Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Carl Seitz, and Paul Pronold. Alicia Silva arrived at 1:10 p.m. **Absent:** Chair Ken Herro, and Mareth Kipp.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Senior Services Director Cathy Bellovary, Nutrition Services Supervisor Mary Smith, Client Services Specialist Judy Roehm, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Danie ls, Former Health Council Chair Jo Ann Weidmann, Epidemiologist Darren Rausch, Senior Financial Analyst Andy Thelke, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, and Environmental Health Supervisor Steve Korthof.

Approve Minutes of January 30, 2003

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Pronold to approve the minutes of January 30, 2003. Motion carried 4 -0.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

February 27.

Review Correspondence

Wolff said the next Waukesha Survival Coalition Planning meeting will be held tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. at the ARCh Office located at 419 Fredrick Street in Waukesha.

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Pronold to approve mileage reimbursement for any committee members wanting to attend the February 14 Waukesha Survival Coalition Planning meeting. Motion carried 4 -0.

Executive Committee Report

Esler advised that the Executive Committee meeting, at their last meeting, approved the Community Development and Federated Library ordinance to accept grant funding, both of which were included in the last yellow packet. Federated Library Director Tom Hennen advised of a potential future ordinance to accept additional grant funds to improve automation. Hennen also gave a report on library system automation efforts. The committee continued their review of the County Code revisions.

Alicia Silva arrived at 1:10 p.m.

Update on Senior Services Transportation Program

Bellovary distributed various information on the Department of Senior Services transportation program including 2003 fares and services, and eligibility applications for the taxi program, Rideline, or ADA specialized transportation. Roehm noted that the New Berlin route was discontinued in December. Those affected cannot utilize Rideline. This is more expensive although fares are based on ability to pay. Bellovary said one challenge they're seeing more of is getting elderly and disabled people to work. We want them to be productive members of society, it helps their health and it helps the economy, but then we don't always have ways of getting them to work. Another big concern is with cuts in the amount of trips for recreational and social purposes. While these are not a priority, they are very important for maintaining health. She's also seeing increased medical trips since people are living longer and this will pose challenges as well. Wolff noted that Community Development Coordinator Glen Lewinski has scheduled a meeting on February 25 to determine if they can do anything. Bellovary advised she had planned on attending. She said they're hoping more communities will implement senior taxi services.

because they're cost-effective. Bellovary noted that general ridership in 2002 was down, probably because they raised the fees and because of the economy.

Bellovary referred to the Waukesha County Request for Proposal for Rideline Paratransit Services which was approved by the Finance Committee on February 5. One major change was that in order to be compliant with State DOT requirements, they will now be transporting nursing home residents as well as disabled children. This could cause budgetary concerns because they have no idea how many people this will entail. Another concern was that the vans aren't set up as ambulances. Therefore, it was written into the contract that nursing homes must have a certified nursing assistant riding with the patient, the patient must be able to sit up for two hours in a wheel chair, and nothing can be attached to the patient except oxygen or else they won't take them. Bellovary felt this was fair and they will be anxious to see how people respond. Another major change involved disabled children and it was written into the contract that vans cannot be used as school buses; the schools must provide their own transportation. There are some questions with regard to after school activities. They also made the restriction that an adult must be with the child because the bus driver can't be responsible for problems that may arise and still be able to drive the bus. Parents cannot bring siblings because this could cause problems as well. Bellovary said she will keep the committee posted. She advised that staff will be communicating with the vendor on a regular basis because this is a liability for him and his drivers.

Bellovary said with the new contract, eligibility determination for ADA parallel corridor rides for seniors was supposed to transfer to the transit provider but for some reason this was never written in. While they will continue to provide this important service, it is a concern.

Update on the Senior Services Nutrition Program

Smith said they're celebrating the 25th anniversary of Senior Dining Program. Each of the dining centers contributed to a commemorative quilt to be permanently displayed in the courthouse later this year. Also, each dining center has scheduled its own celebratory event and she encouraged committee members to attend. Smith distributed copies of their new brochure which listed the new program name of "Senior Dining Program" as opposed to the old name which was "Elderly Nutrition Program." The name change was a State initiative. Smith advised they're continuing to see positive growth at the congregational meal sites. There were, however, fewer home delivered meals served in 2002 than in 2001 even though the number of clients increased. Smith advised that the 2002 nutrition budget balanced out well. With the department's Nutrition Risk Program, the majority of their clients' nutrition risk decreased significantly after one year of being involved with the County's Senior Dining Program. Smith noted that one year's worth of meals is less than the cost of a one-day hospital stay. Smith talked about the dining centers' committed staff but she said they're always looking for volunteers, particularly drivers. Bellovary and Smith touched on potential State budget cuts and how they could affect services.

Discuss the Waukesha Health Council and the County Health Report Cards

Weidmann said in 1990 they began the process of assessing the health status of Waukesha County with the intent of developing a health plan. Shortly thereafter, the State dictated that all public health departments would be responsible for doing the same. The overall goal is to improve the health status of the citizens of Waukesha County through education, personal responsibility, and the development of community health partnerships. The Waukesha Health Council was established to work on the identified needs and help develop the health plan as part of a countywide effort.

Weidmann distributed copies of Waukesha County Health Report Card, 3rd edition, prepared by the Waukesha County Health Council and dated July, 2002. Both the 1997 and the 2002 report cards had an average grade of C+. Weidmann noted that Aurora Health Care will be doing the behavioral risk survey in all of the communities in which they have facilities, including Waukesha County. They want it for their purposes but they will also share the information with local health departments so this will save the County money which Weidmann thought was around \$18,000.

Weidmann said we got an "A" in the area of maternal, child and infant health, partly because we have a low teenage birth rate and a high rate of prenatal care. We got a "C" in the area of communicable disease, partly because there were high incidence rates of E. coli cases in 1998 and 1999, Hepatitis B and C cases each year, and a continued high rate of Pertussis cases. Waukesha County received a "C" grade in the area of cancer, partly because the incidence rate is that of the State of Wisconsin's three-year average, a high incidence and mortality of breast cancer, and an increase in smoking, obesity, and less than desirable eating habits. Heart disease and stroke received a "D", partly due to an increasing death rate from coronary heart disease (although lower than the state's average), an increasing death rate due to stroke, and an increasing population with high blood pressure and obesity. The area of injury, violence, and substance abuse received a "B", partly due to a relatively low suicide rate (but an increasing rate of depression), a low homicide rate, and low rates of drug-related motor vehicle deaths and accidents.

Based on those five categories, the overall health of Waukesha County residents merits a grade of C+. The Health Council believes that important progress has been made in many areas, however, individuals have yet to make a commitment toward improving their own health by exercising more, watching their weight, eliminating smoking, and reducing other risk factors. Without increased commitment from residents, a healthy Waukesha County will remain a vision rather than become a reality.

Weidmann distributed information on the Heart Healthy Initiative to improve cardiovascular health in adults living or working in Waukesha County because cardiovascular diseases are the leading killers of adults in the county. Weidmann noted this initiative is a three-year effort.

Announcements

Wolff announced the Century House Open House will be held on February 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 1130 Northview Road in Waukesha. For informational purposes, Schuler distributed a news release from the State Department of Health & Family Services entitled "Wisconsin Orders Smallpox Vaccine," and a related newspaper article.

Ordinance 157-119: Endorse the Receipt and Expenditure of Federal Grant for Mosquito Assessment and Control Related to the West Nile Virus and Other Mosquito-Borne Viruses that Cause Human Illness in the City of Waukesha

Korthof said the grant, totaling \$9,761, is being made available from the Center for Disease Control and the State of Wisconsin for mosquito assessment and control. The City of Waukesha was chosen to be the recipient of services to mitigate human impact from mosquito-borne viruses such as West Nile, based upon its population as an urban area with more than 60,000 people. Korthof felt this was a good opportunity for the County to do some work in the City and gain more information and knowledge. He explained how the grant money would be used which included an educational component. He advised that West Nile Virus can basically be prevented with the use of mosquito repellants so education is an important factor. Mosquito traps will also be set for the purposes of assessment and monitoring. Korthof noted that the grant ends June 30.

MOTION: Pronold moved, second by Silva to approve ordinance 157-O-119. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Pronold to adjourn at 3:31 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva
Secretary